

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 SCCT-01

SY-05 USSS-00 NRC-07 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 FEAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10 DHA-02 /148 W

----- 116054

R 191411Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2288

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS PARIS 21244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, FR

SUBJECT: BRETON TERRORISTS SET EXPLOSIVES AT NUCLEAR
POWER STATION

REF: A) PARIS 11395 B) PARIS 11636 C) STATE 140356

SUMMARY: TERRORISTS SET TWO EXPLOSIONS AT THE MT.
D'ARREE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN BRITTANY, CAUSING NO
SIGNIFICANT DAMAGES NOR RADIOACTIVE RELEASES. THE
CHARGES WERE PLACED OUTSIDE THE NUCLEAR REACTOR SITE.
NO ORGANIZATION HAS AS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. END
SUMMARY

1) ON MAY 15 AT 0145 AND 0200, TWO SUCCESSIVE EXPLOSIONS
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ROCKED THE MT. D'ARREE NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT BRENNIL-

LIS, FINISTERE. THE CHARGES CAUSED SOME MINOR DAMAGE TO AN INLET FOR COOLING WATER AND TO A CHIMNEY FOR EVACUATING AIR FROM THE BUILDINGS IN THE POWER STATION. THE MT. D'ARREE PLANT USES AN EXPERIMENTAL HEAVY WATER MODULATED, GAS COOLED NUCLEAR REACTOR TO GENERATE ABOUT 70 MWE.

2) FRENCH OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO THE NUCLEAR REACTOR AND NO RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVITY TO THE ENVIRONMENT. NEVERTHELESS, THE REACTOR WAS ORDERED SHUT DOWN PENDING AN INVESTIGATION.

3) ACCORDING TO THE SCENARIO REPORTED IN THE PRESS, THE TERRORISTS MADE THEIR APPROACH TO THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN A BOAT, CROSSING AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE WHICH SUPPLIES COOLING WATER FOR THE STATION. THEY SET THEIR FIRST CHARGE AT THE FAR END OF THE CANAL WHICH LINKS THE LAKE AND THE STATION. IT DAMAGED THE INLET FOR COOLING WATER. THE TERRORISTS CUT SEVERAL HOLES IN THE 6-FOOT HIGH WIRE FENCE WHICH SURROUNDS THE STATION AND SET THE SECOND CHARGE WITHIN THE ENCLOSED COMPOUND.

4. NO GROUP OR PERSON HAS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACT AND REPORTEDLY THE POLICE HAVE NOT FOUND ANY LEADS. SUSPECTED ARE MEMBERS OF THE BRETON SEPARATIST MOVEMENT WHO IN FEBRUARY 1974 DESTROYED BY EXPLOSIVES A TV TRANSMITTING ANTENNA, ONLY 5 KILOMETERS FROM THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION. EXPRESSLY DENYING ANY INVOLVEMENT WERE BRETON ENVIRONMENTALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN AGITATING AGAINST THE EDF'S PROPOSAL TO BUILD 3 NUCLEAR POWER PARKS IN BRITTANY (IRONICALLY, EDF'S PLANS TO CLOSE DOWN THE EXPERIMENTAL MT. D'ARREE REACTOR HAD BEEN ABANDONED OWING PARTLY TO THE INSISTENCE OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL THAT THE STATION BE KEPT IN OPERATION). IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT ON MAY 3, TWO EXPLOSIVES WERE SET AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE FESSENHEIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN ALSACE CAUSING A DELAY OF SEVERAL MONTHS IN THE SCHEDULE. A COMMANDO GROUP, ULRIKE MEINHOF PUIG UNCLASSIFIED

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ANTICH, THEN CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY (REF A & B).

5. COMMENT: WE WILL USE THIS LATEST TERRORIST ATTACK TO RENEW OUR REQUEST TO THE FRENCH FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON EXISTING AND FUTURE PHYSICAL PROTECTION MEASURES (REF C). FRENCH RESPONSE WAS OVERTAKEN BY THE VACATION PERIOD.
GAMMON

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